

Summary of Cancer Incidence and Mortality for Zip Code 29506 (Florence, SC)

Cancer Incidence in Zip Code 29506

Table 1 shows the number of cancer cases that occurred and that were expected in zip code 29506 from 1996 through 1999. A total of 246 cases occurred, while 359 cases were expected. The number of cancer cases that occurred was significantly lower than expected, which is encouraging news.

The most common types of cancer were lung, prostate, colorectal and female breast cancers. These four types of cancer are also the most common cancers occurring across all of South Carolina.

The analysis did not reveal any specific cancer sites with significantly more cases than expected.

Cancer Mortality in Zip Code 29506

Table 2 shows the number of cancer deaths that occurred and that were expected in zip code 29506 from 1996 through 2000. A total of 208 cancer deaths occurred, while 215 were expected. The number of cancer deaths that occurred was lower than expected.

There was one type of cancer death (**stomach**) where significantly more deaths occurred than expected. A total of 14 stomach cancer deaths occurred while 6 deaths were expected. Stomach cancer is twice as common in men as it is in women, and there is a sharp increase in stomach cancer after the age of 50. Smoking, alcohol use, and diets that contain large amounts of smoked foods, salted fish and meat, pickled vegetables, or certain foods high in starch/low in fiber can increase a person's risk of developing stomach cancer. Many studies are also showing that *Helicobacter pylori* infection is a cause of stomach cancer¹.

Conclusions

In summary, fewer cancer cases and deaths occurred in zip code 29506 than expected. Stomach cancer deaths were significantly higher than expected. However, we know that stomach cancer has risk factors associated with a person's lifestyle (such as smoking and alcohol use). Eliminating these lifestyle risk factors can decrease a person's chances of developing stomach cancer.

A cancer cluster exists when the number of cancers that occurs is more than would be expected by chance. A cancer cluster is more likely to involve rarer cancers rather than more common cancers, like prostate or lung. Overall, we do not see any evidence of cancer clustering or of cancers resulting from environmental exposures in zip code 29506.

For questions about this report, please contact Laura Sanders at the SC Central Cancer Registry.

Report provided by:

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References

1. American Cancer Society, 2001. www.cancer.org

Information on cancer incidence provided by the SC Central Cancer Registry, Office of Public Health Statistics and Information Services, SC Dept. of Health and Environmental Control.

Information on cancer mortality provided by the Division of Biostatistics, Office of Public Health Statistics and Information Services, SC Dept. of Health and Environmental Control.

Table 1. Analysis of New Cancer Cases in Zip Code 29506, 1996-1999

<u>Cancer Site</u>	<u>Observed No. of Cases</u>	<u>Expected No. of Cases</u>	<u>Observed/Expected</u>	<u>Chi-SquareTest*</u>
Lung/Bronchus	47	55.7	0.84	1.36
Prostate	39	53.4	0.73	3.89
Colon/Rectum	30	42.1	0.71	3.47
Breast (Female)	28	56.4	0.50	14.34
Kidney/Renal Pelvis	13	9.0	1.45	1.78
Cervix	8	5.3	1.52	1.42
Uterus	8	9.2	0.87	0.15
Stomach	7	5.8	1.20	0.23
Bladder	6	14.2	0.42	4.70
Pancreas	6	8.3	0.73	0.62
Leukemia	5	7.2	0.69	0.68
Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma	5	11.8	0.42	3.95
Melanoma	2	12.3	0.16	8.61
Oral/Pharynx	2	10.4	0.19	6.77
Ovary	2	6.3	0.32	2.94
All Sites	246	359.0	0.69	35.57

Excludes in situ cases of cancer to allow for comparison.

Excludes cancer sites with less than 5 cases of cancer expected due to the unreliability of analyses based on small numbers.

*The Chi-Square statistical test allows us to determine if the difference between what is observed and what is expected is significant. If the value is greater than 3.84, then we are 95% confident that the observed number of cases is significantly different from the expected number of cases.

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Table 2. Analysis of Cancer Deaths in Zip Code 29506, 1996-2000

<u>Cancer Site</u>	<u>Observed No. of Deaths</u>	<u>Expected No. of Deaths</u>	<u>Observed/Expected</u>	<u>Chi-SquareTest*</u>
Lung/Bronchus	56	61.0	0.92	0.41
Colon/Rectum	28	21.8	1.28	1.75
Breast (Female)	18	16.9	1.06	0.07
Stomach	14	5.6	2.51	12.67
Prostate	10	13.6	0.73	0.97
Pancreas	10	11.9	0.84	0.32
Leukemia	4	7.9	0.51	1.89
Esophagus	4	5.2	0.77	0.27
Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma	2	7.9	0.25	4.37
Brain/CNS	1	5.3	0.19	3.50
Ovary	1	5.2	0.19	3.40
All Sites	208	215.2	0.97	0.24

Excludes cancer sites with less than 5 cancer deaths expected due to the unreliability of analyses based on small numbers.

*The Chi-Square statistical test allows us to determine if the difference between what is observed and what is expected is significant. If the value is greater than 3.84, then we are 95% confident that the observed number of deaths is significantly different from the expected number of deaths.

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